THIRTY THREE YEARS OF GUIDING, GIVING AND GROWING (The 3 Gs)

As 2016 came to a close, I reflected on the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo and the Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund journey. After many reflections down memory lane, there were a couple of things that resonated.

One was how this organization continues to grow and develop, despite the many obstacles.

Two is the fact that this organization has been the starting ground for some of our world champions and continues to provide guidance to those who are interested in developing their skills.

Finally, the third item, is the commitment to help those who are interested in improving themselves and exposing others to rodeo and other cultural events. The organization will continue to build upon these things, which I have identified as the 3 Gs (Giving, Guiding and Growing).

These are things that everyone associated with BPIR can take pride in because you all have contributed in the 3Gs.

As we celebrate BPIR’s 33 years of existence, it is more important than ever that we remember the foundation for which the organization was built. It was built to give African American Cowboys and Cowgirls recognition for their contributions in the development of the West and to provide a platform to display their talents as they continue to make history. Black Cowboys and Cowgirls are real and we intend to make sure the world is aware of each of you, so that you are never forgotten.

The 2017 rodeo season started with the annual MLK Jr. African American Heritage Rodeo in Denver, CO on January 16th as our country celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and pay respect to the Black Cowboy and Cowgirl heritage.

While last year the weather was absolutely beautiful, this year the weather decided to cause some anxiety. Storms were brewing all across the country and I was worried as to whether the cowboys and cowgirls would be able to travel. I guess by now, I should have known better to worry, because our association members are as loyal as they come. Some made arrangements to leave their homes earlier than planned to get ahead of the storms. Thank God everyone wanted to come and made it safe.

It was really nice to see such a large number of cowboys and cowgirls on Sunday evening at our kick-off Meet & Greet Reception. The reception was hosted at Wystone’s Bar and Grill, which provided good fun, food, drinks, music and dancing. It is always great seeing new faces and the next generation all together and loving on each other.

As Sunday evening came to a close, everyone went their separate ways, knowing Monday would be the first show and an opportunity to gain the lead on the season with a win. The 2017 countdown to the BPIR Finals would start. When we all woke up Monday morning, I think we were all surprised that there was 3 to 5 inches of snow on the ground and it was still snowing. As the saying goes, when you are in Rome, you do as the Romans. Well everyone was in Denver and they did as the Denverits do and that is to just keep going because the show will go, rain, sleet or snow. Despite the snow, the day started with the largest celebration in the US, with the MLK Jr. Marade. The community did not let us down as they came out to support the 2017 MLK Jr. Rodeo. The crowd was as large as it was in 2016, if not larger.
The Colorado Westernaires, which is a mounted precision drill organization composed of Jefferson County, Colorado, youngsters from 9 to 19 years of age.

It was then time for the Calf Roping. The evening was very competitive and Chris Rollings walked away with 1st place with a 8.3, while Richard Coleman took 2nd with a 9.0 and Derek Goff took 3rd with a 9.5. The 4th, 5th 6th places were taken by Malik Gatson, Johnny Ray Howard and Matthew Sloan to round out the top 6 places.

As the Calf Roping was wrapping up, our beautiful Black cowgirls were getting ready for the Ladies Steer Undecorating event. It was now time for the horses and the ladies to entertain the audience. Jhani Hardin took 1st with a very fast 2.2, followed by Carolyn Carter with a 3.5. Stephanie Haynes, Tiphani Carter and Dayna Carter walked away with 3rd, 4th and 5th.

While the ladies were regrouping for the Ladies Barrel Racing event, the Kids Mutton Bustin event thrilled the audience as the kids on the sheep held on for dear life. One of the contestants stayed on forever. When she was questioned as to how she was able to stay on so long, she said ‘They just told me to not let go and that is what I did.’ As you watch the kids participate in the mutton busting, the one thing you know is that they will remember the experience for the rest of their life.

The barrels were set and the beautiful ladies were ready to entertain the crowd. When the race was over, 15 year old Aleeyah Roberts was the champion with a 16.14. She was followed by Denver’s own Mikala Nealy with a 16.4. 3rd place was taken by Linda Brown with a 16.87. 4th, 5th and 6th places were won by Charlotte Carter, Kaneshia Jackson and Danielle Clark. This event revealed the talents of all three generation.

As our juniors were preparing, it was time for the Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund to present one of its Scholarship for 2017. A $1,000 scholarship was presented to Erica Frank. Erica will be attending Georgia Gwinnett College in the Fall of 2017 with a declared Pre-Law Degree. Erica encompasses all the characteristics of excellence that Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund requires. Let’s all congratulate Erica.

Now to add a little more excitement, it was time to see what the juniors could do in the Jr. Barrel Racing event. As the announcers start talking about our youth, the riders came in all ages, sizes and talents. Some of the contestants were unfortunately unable to complete the pattern, so they had to take a no time. However last year’s champion, Savannah Roberts -determine not to be beat and once again was the winner with a time of 17.03. She was followed by 4-year old Harrel Williams, Jr. with a time of 23.65. When 4-year old Harrel Williams aka June Bug rode, he literally stole the show when he took his hat and threw it to the crowd like he was the winner. I love his confidence and his spirit of competition.

The evening was filled with much excitement and as we were heading into the final event. The bulls were kicking and making all kinds of noise in the chutes. This was an indicator that the Bull Riding event was going to be a real interesting one.

As the final event was about to happen, you could see the various expressions on the faces of the bull riders. When the event was over, no Bull Rider had managed to stay on for the 8 seconds. The bulls were the winners for the night.

When the audience settled down, the lights dimmed as Leon Vick and Valeria Howard-Vason came out to present the beautiful MLK Rodeo buckles to the rodeo event winners.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Arnold Laskey- Bull Dogging
Harold Miller- Bareback Riding
Chris Rollings- Calf Roping
Jhanin Hardin- Ladies Steer Undecorating
Aleeyah Roberts- Ladies Barrel Racing
Savannah Roberts-Jr. Barrel Racing

The evening came to an end and the first rodeo of the BPIR 2017 tour was over and another one in the history books.

Now it is time to prepare for our next rodeo of the tour, which is Memphis, TN. on March 31st and April 1st.

See you there as we keep the BPIR family and story moving forward.

Special Thanks to everyone who participated in the MLK Jr. Rodeo.

See you in Memphis.

Valeria Howard-Vason
**BPIR Rules & Regulations 2017**

BPIR will use the IPRA rules for 2017 along with additional or edited rules which are approved by the BPIR Board/Staff. If there is an issue in any event, the contestant should go to the Event Director first. The Event Director will resolve the issue with the judge and contestant.

**Please note:** There will be a $25 fine for anyone (other than BPIR staff) that are inside the arena when not performing. $50 for 2nd offense/fine. Stock charges will be $15 and 6% will be taken at all BPIR, MLK and Associated Rodeos from the total money for each event and a timer fee of $7 a rodeo.

Membership cards must be purchased or renewed PRIOR to competing in any sanctioned rodeo for the rodeo points to count towards 2017 standings. New membership cards will remain at $80 for 2017 and renewal membership cards at $70 (2016 members ONLY). 2016 Rodeo Champions are exempt from paying membership fees. Seniors - 50 years and above must purchase a membership the 1st year for $30. All memberships are free afterwards as long as there has been 5 years of consecutive participation.

Please note that contestants that win money in Atlanta, GA rodeo where your membership card balance is deducted out of your winnings, your card membership will remain in good standings for the following rodeo season until the Atlanta rodeo the following year at which time you MUST renew or purchased a permit before the Atlanta rodeo begins. If an Atlanta contestant choses to compete at the BPIR Finals, note that your card will expire on December 31st of the year you competed.

**PAYOFF FOR EACH B.P.I.R. RODEO WILL BE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:**

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**QUALIFYING FOR THE 2017 BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL FINALS RODEO - TOP 10**

TOP 10:
The top 10 point leaders who are BPIR members and have met the rodeo requirement rule of (one more than half) will qualify for BPIR Championship Rodeo in Washington, DC in September 2017. If you are competing at the BPIR finals as an alternate and you DID NOT compete at one more than half of the rodeos, you WILL NOT be eligible for year-end awards. **Money ONLY!** For contestants to be eligible for a BPIR Championship title, you must compete in the BPIR Finals.

Please note, if you do not meet the rodeo requirements, you will be considered an Alternate. Contestants will be grouped according to how they qualify to compete at the finals. **ONLY Group 1 (Qualified Rodeo & Money) will be eligible for Year End Awards. Groups 2 (Qualified Rodeo & No Money) and 3 (Money & Not Enough Qualified Rodeos) will be considered Alternates. Group 2 and 3 Alternates will be notified of the order in which their entry will be accepted but must pay by the specified deadline to secure their position. All deadlines for the BPIR Finals will be announced at the end of the rodeo season. You must pay your Finals entry fee by the deadlines specified in order to secure your position.**

**CO-APPROVED/SANCTIONED RODEOS:**

Co-Approved Rodeos may require you to PURCHASE A PERMIT OR CARD in order to compete. You MUST be a BPIR Member BEFORE competing in a Co-Approved/Sanction Rodeo in order for your points to count for BPIR association. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

**2017 BPIR SANCTIONED RODEOS:**

- Arizona Black Rodeo- Chandler, AZ
- Hip Hop Cowboys Spring Rodeo - Mesquite, TX
- Roy LeBlanc Invitational Rodeo - Okmulgee, OK
- ASCGA Easter Rodeo- Liberty, TX

**BPIR FINALS JACKETS:**

All contestants competing at the finals will receive a BPIR Finals jacket.

**RFKS ENTRY RULE:**

All timed events (CR, SW, LSU) are last to ENTER first to go EXCEPT Ladies Barrel Racing. All CONTESTANTS and STAFF must check in with Secretary on day of event unless pre-entered via online or mail entry.

**STALLS and RV HOOK-UPS:**

Contestants, Staff and Specialty Acts are responsible for paying their Stall, RV's and Electrical Hook-up Charges in each market. If anyone leaves a market without paying their charges, they will not be allowed to enter another BPIR rodeo until all charges are paid.
**RELAY RACE RULES**

1. **The Start of the Relay Will Begin at the First Barrel and the Finish Will Be at the First Barrel** (reason: the majority of the relay racers will be accustomed to starting at the 1st barrel and stopping at the 4th. The relay racers are generally the same group of people each year.

2. **The Passing of the Baton Will Occur Between the 4th and 1st Barrel Only** (i.e., the pass can’t happen at the 4th, nor can it. The passing of the baton will occur between the 4th and 1st barrel only (i.e., The pass can’t happen at the 4th, nor can it happen at the 1st, it must be between the barrels).

3. You have to be ready to enter the arena when your team is called; if not, you will be disqualified and will forfeit your entry fee.

4. You can encourage your horse to run; however, the designated relay baton is all that you can pass between riders.

5. The barrel will be staked at the very beginning and will remain the same for the duration of the race for both performances.
DENVER CO
MLK Jr. Rodeo of Champions
Monday, January 16, 2017 | 6:00 pm
Slack, Monday morning,
January 16th @ 8:30am
National Western Stock Show
Denver Coliseum

MEMPHIS, TN
Rodeo for Kidz Sake
March 31, 2017 10:30 am
Agri Center International
105 South Germantown Rd., Memphis, TN

OAKLAND, CA
Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo
Saturday, July 8, 2017 | 2:30 pm
Sunday, July 9, 2017 | 2:30 pm
Rowell Ranch Rodeo Ground
9711 Dublin Canyon Road, Hayward, CA

LOS ANGELES, CA
Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo
Saturday, July 15, 2017 | 7:00 pm
Sunday, July 16, 2017 | 3:30 pm
Industry Hills Expo Center
16200 Temple Ave., City of Industry, CA 91744

ATLANTA, GA
Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo
Saturday August 5, 2017 | 7:30pm
Sunday August 6, 2017 | 3:30pm
Georgia International Horse Park
1996 Centennial Olympic Pkwy, Conyers, GA

BPIR CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO
WASHINGTON, DC
Rodeo For Kidz Sake
Friday, September 22, 2017 | 10:00 AM
Bill Pickett Championship Rodeo
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017
1:30 pm & 7:30 pm
The Show Place Arena and
Prince George's Equestrian Center
14900 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Upper Marlboro, MD

SANCTIONED RODEO’S
SANCTIONED RODEO points will count
for BPIR Championship Finals for
BPIR Members ONLY!

Arizona Black Rodeo
Wild Horse Pass Arena
February 25, 2017
Chandler, Arizona

Hip Hop Cowboys Spring Rodeo
Mesquite Rodeo Arena
March 18, 2017
Mesquite, TX

ASGCA Easter Rodeo
TVE Fairgrounds
April 16, 2017
Liberty, TX

63rd Annual Okmulgee
"Roy LeBlanc" Invitational Rodeo
Bob Arrington Arena
August 11-12, 2017
Okmulgee, OK

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Congratulations to the winners and Thank You to all the participants and staff
ENTRY FORM

MEMPHIS TN RODEO • ENTRY FORM
THE AGRI CENTER INTERNATIONAL
105 SOUTH GERMANTOWN RD • MEMPHIS, TN
RFKS • Friday, March 31, 2017 • 10:30 am
Saturday, April 1, 2017 | 7:00 pm

SLACK starts @ 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 1, 2017
Timed Event Entry Fee must be PAID for SLACK and SHOW by 11:30 am
and Rough Stock by 5:30 pm on April 1, 2017 to secure your position

ONLINE PAYMENTS for Entry Fees ends: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 @ 10PM (CST)

MEMPHIS TN RODEO
ADDED MONEY  $8,000

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<td>LADIES BARREL RACIN</td>
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PERMIT OR MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR KIDZ SHOW

PLEASE NOTE: $15.00 Stock Charge - $7.00 timer charge per run.

HOST HOTEL: QUALITY INN SUITES • 7787 WOLF RIVER BLVD. GERMANTOWN, TN 38138 • (901) 757-7800 • $90 • LIMITED SPACE.

RV HOOK-UPS - $22 PER DAY • STALLS: $11 per day SHAVINGS: $7 (2 bag min)
(No-tied out Horses Allowed - $100 fine per horse)

ALL ENTRY FEES CAN BE PAID IN ADVANCE ONLINE at:
Click: Rodeo Soul – Memphis Entry

BOOKS OPEN/CALL-IN:
CALL-IN: Call in date is Thursday, March 23rd, 2017 from 6:00pm - 9:00pm CST
POSITION will posted on FB and BPIR website on Tuesday, March 28th or call secretary after 5PM.

CALL or TEXT: Stephanie Haynes, TEXAS BPIR Office at 713-253-3334 or by email: stephaniehaynes2@gmail.com TO ENTER

Entry fees must be made payable to BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO and must be paid by CASHIER’S CHECK, WESTERN UNION, PAYPAL or MONEY ORDER. Absolutely no personal or business checks accepted. Please make certain that all information requested is completed and form is properly signed. Return entry and release form, along with entry fee, to:

BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO •
P.O. Box 39163 • Denver, CO 80039

Neither entry form nor entry fees are transferable/refundable. Please contact the TEXAS, B.P.I.R. CALL-IN OFFICE at 713-253-3334 on Monday, March 28, 2017 to confirm your participation on or FB and BPIR Website.

RELEASE
I, the undersigned, do hereby release the management, all executives, managers or owners of buildings, owners of livestock, promoter, sponsors and their employees, etc., attached to the BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO, from all damages for injuries sustained while participating in any event or act therein. I will not, in any, hold the show management responsible, and will participate in this show absolutely at my own risk.

I, the undersigned, do hereby further agree to allow the management, without additional compensation, to use any and all photographs, videos and motion pictures taken of me in connection with the BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO for use in both commercial and non-commercial advertisements, motion pictures, videos and promotions of any kind.

I agree that this instrument be binding on my heirs, next of kin and assigns.

SIGNATURE _______________________________ DATE _____________
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: ________________________________ DATE _____________

SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR OFFICE FILES, PLEASE COMPLETE
THE INFORMATION BELOW.

NAME _____________________________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
BIRTHDATE ____________ SOC. SEC. NO. ________________
CITY STATE ZIP ______________________________________
PHONE ____________________ EMAIL __________________

** ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE PRESENT IN THE ARENA AND ENTRY FEES PAID TWO (2) HOURS BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE. IF RODEO SECRETARY IS LATE, RODEO SECRETARY WILL BE FINED $50.00.

RODEO FOR KIDZ SAKE
Friday morning, March 31, 2017 at 10:30am.
Entry Fees are $50.00 with $3,100 added

Remember that the last cowboy or cowgirl to enter a rodeo event will be the first to go in the event. You can pay online to for both performances in advance.

Please note that the points from the Memphis ‘Rodeo for Kidz Sake’ will count toward your year-end winnings BUT you MUST compete in the SATURDAY performance in order to get credit toward the required number of rodeos you must compete in for the BPIR Finals.

Remember that the last cowboy or cowgirl to enter a rodeo event will be the first to go in the event.

MLK RODEO 2017
PHOTOS BY BRANDON MARSHAL
Directors are responsible for making sure the event rules are being followed and must be at the rodeo early enough to complete the directories’ responsibilities. Directors are responsible for the following items if applicable to their event:

- Assist in marking or staking the arena
- Locate the 4 metal barrels
- Remove/replace barrel covers
- Run cattle through
- Identify lame or defective stock and cut from rodeo
- Identify stock number and provide information to rodeo secretaries
- Address event issues and engage Judges or Rodeo management team when appropriate.

Directors are expected to be at each rodeo

- If a director cannot attend a rodeo, they are responsible for notifying the Alternate to assure alternate will be in attendance. Director should advise the secretary as soon as possible they will not be in attendance and Alternate will be performing job duties.
- If Alternate is also unable to attend, the director must notify one of the rodeo secretaries immediately, who will notify Sedgwick and Carolyn. Sedgwick and Carolyn are then responsible for identifying an acting director for that specific rodeo.

Bareback – Jason Griffin | Alt. Lamontra Hosley
Bull Dogging – Arnold Laskey | Alt. Rodney Demery
Calf Roping – Deon Osborne | Alt. Harrel Williams
Bull Riding – Tyree Kossie | Alt. Jimmy Patterson
Barrel Racing – Danielle Clark | Alt. Kanesha Jackson
Ladies Steer Undecorating – Neysha Laskey | Alt. Stephanie Haynes
Relay Race – Sedgwick Haynes | Alt. Carolyn Carter